

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the following paragraph between the title and the first line of text as follows:

This is a Continuation of Application No. 10/390,906 filed March 19, 2003, now issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,794,790. The entire disclosure of the prior application is hereby incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 18, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The ac generator includes a front frame 5 made of cast iron, a three-phase armature winding 23, a cylindrical stator core 21 in which the stator winding 23 is mounted, a cylindrical inductor 3C made of laminated iron sheets disposed inside the stator core 21, a non-magnetic retainer plate 35, a rotary shaft 33, a rear frame 6 made of non-magnetic material, a front bearing 8, a rear bearing 9, a cylindrical field coil 4 and a plurality of permanent magnets 34. The non-magnetic retainer plate 35 is disposed at an end of the inductor 3C to fix the inductor 3C and the rotary shaft 33 together. The front frame 5 and the rear frame 6 are coupled together to hold the stator core 21. The inductor 3C and the shaft 33 are rotatably supported by the front and rear bearings 8, 9. The front frame 5 has a cylindrical core portion that axially projects into the inside of the inductor 3C. The cylindrical core portion has an inner bore through which the rotary shaft 33 extends so as to freely rotate. The cylindrical core portion also has an end portion 51 having a smaller outside diameter around which the inductor 3C is disposed and a base portion 52 having a larger outside diameter around which the field coil 4 is wound.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 18, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The inductor 3C is composed of a outer ring, an inner ring and a plurality of honeycomb shaped slots between the outer and inner rings. Two rings are magnetically connected by a pair of diametrically formed thick spoke members. The outer ring is so thin that no magnetic circuit can be formed thereby. The inner ring forms a portion of a magnetic circuit. The permanent magnets 34 are disposed at two pole-pitches in the circumferential direction of the inductor 3C. Thus, the inductor 3C has magnetically conductive portions 3C1 and magnetically non-conductive portions 3C2.